

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Robert A. SHEPHERD JR et al.

Application No. 10/006,100

Filed: December 3, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS  
FOR PLASMA OPTIMIZATION  
IN WAFER PROCESSING

) Attorney Docket No. NOVEP015

) Examiner: Zervignon, Rudy

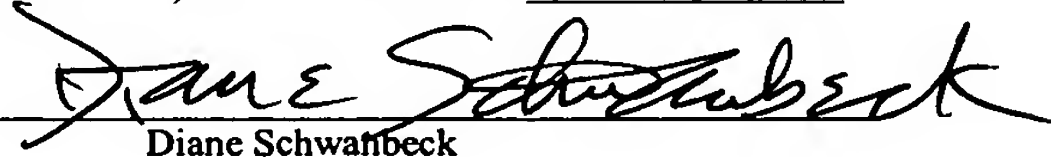
) Group Art Unit: 1763

) Date: December 23, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 23, 2003.

Signed:

  
Diane Schwabbeck

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)

Commissioner for Patents  
Mail Stop: RCE  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application. Applicants request that the Amendment being filed concurrently herewith be considered and submit that this paper satisfies the submission requirement set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.114.

Applicants are attaching a check in the amount of \$880.00 to cover the RCE fee of \$770.00 set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) and the one-month extension of time fee of \$110.00 required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17.

In the event additional fees are due to enable the filing of this RCE, the Commissioner (or the Director) is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. NOVEP015).

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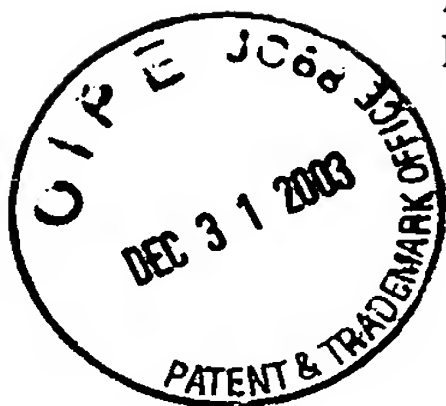
Respectfully submitted,  
MARTINE & PENILLA, LLP



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Customer No. 25920

Application No. 10/006,100  
Advisory Action mailed 11/18/03.  
RCE Submission mailed 12/23/2003.



**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| In re application of:        | ) Docket No: NOVEP015      |
|                              | )                          |
| Robert A. SHEPHERD JR et al. | ) Group Art Unit: 1763     |
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| Application No: 10/006,100   | ) Examiner: Zervigon, Rudy |
|                              | )                          |
| Filed: December 3, 2001      | ) Date: December 23, 2003  |
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| For: METHOD AND APPARATUS    | )                          |
| FOR PLASMA OPTIMIZATION      | )                          |
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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Diane Schwanbeck

**AMENDMENT WITH A REQUEST FOR CONTINUED**

**EXAMINATION (RCE)**

Mai Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is in response to an Advisory Action mailed on November 18, 2003. The period for a reply expires no later than six (6) months from the date of the final office action mailed on August 27, 2003. An RCE is being filed along with this response to enable the amendments and remarks to be fully considered. Please enter the following:

Listing of Claims begins on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 9.